



St Michael's Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Issue: September 2023

Review Date: September 2025

Our School Vision

As a school community, we aspire to develop life-long learners who have the confidence to explore the world around them and grow as unique individuals. We provide a safe family environment, inspired by Christian values, in which the flourishing of each enables the flourishing of all.

'This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine!'

'Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.' Matthew 5:15

Introduction

At St Michael's collective worship is central to the life of our school. We celebrate religious, cultural and ethnic diversity and encourage dialogue and understanding. Worship offers the children and others in our school the opportunity to explore the place of faith in each of our lives, and in the communities in which we live and at the same time reflect on our values in the context of our Christian ethos. We believe that we can all learn from each other and that collective worship is an educational entitlement for all. Collective worship reflects our mission statement and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school.

Inclusion

Our understanding of Christianity is that it is an inclusive faith which mirrors the attitude of Christ in the Gospels and as such we welcome children and staff of all faiths

Our collective worship provides the pupils and staff the opportunity to:

- worship God
- experience a variety of styles of worship
- celebrate:
 - Christian festivals;
 - school values;
 - achievements;
- grow in understanding of and participation in prayer
- develop a reflective approach to life and reflect on Christian values
- develop as a community based on Christian values
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading presentation and evaluation of worship
- recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, lifestyles and faiths which exist in our school and in the wider community
- develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally
- feel safe and affirmed.

At times worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular will:

- nurture spiritual growth;
- consider moral issues in a Christian context;
- enhance social understanding;
- explore beliefs drawn from their own cultural heritage.

The Pattern of Collective Worship

At St Michael's collective worship mainly takes place in the school hall and involves all Foundation Stage, KS1 and KS2 pupils. Each week we have a whole school assembly following the 'Roots and Fruits' scheme. Once a week collective worship is led by Reverend Castle and he alternates between the key stages on a fortnightly basis. On alternate weeks, pupils participate in class collective worship which enables pupils to explore their faith and ask questions in a more personal setting.

We follow the seasons of the Church year and within this significant festivals and other special days are observed. These always include Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter and Pentecost and other days such as Candlemas are celebrated occasionally. In addition, our collective worship may be planned as a result of raising awareness of current world issues, as a starting point for fund raising, such as Children in Need or related to whole school curriculum initiatives.

Whenever worship takes place it is planned to promote thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.

Leading worship

Worship across the year has a variety of leaders from both within school and is supported weekly by Reverend Castle from St Michael and All Angels Church. Children are given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year. Classes also complete a follow up session in class from 'Roots and Fruits'. Visitors are welcome to lead collective worship from time to time and are given guidance on our worship policy. Leaders from faiths within the area help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. Leaders, including the children, plan the content and activities included in Worship according to what is most appropriate to the season/theme, and the ages, aptitudes and the backgrounds of the pupils. Throughout their time at our school children will encounter a wide variety of activities such as:

- Roots and Fruits
- Readings from the bible and stories
- Drama and dance
- Hymns songs and music
- Periods of Reflection
- A lighted candle
- Prayer and meditations

- Images
- Children's contributions

Prayer is a vital part of our worship. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to Jesus and God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Pupils who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection and our evaluations are fed into the planning for future worship.

'Roots and Fruits' follows a 2-year cycle covering:

- Year 1 – Generosity, Compassion, Courage, Forgiveness, Friendship, Respect
- Year 2 – Thankfulness, Trust, Perseverance, Justice, Service, Thankfulness

A legal note

By law, Collective Worship must:

- be provided for every child every day;
- reflect the school's Trust Deed.

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. In the first instance we ask parents who may wish to exercise this right to visit school to speak with the Headteacher.

Monitoring and Evaluating

The SLT and RE subject leader will monitor the delivery of collective worship to ensure a balanced coverage is provided and achieved. A termly outline will be provided to the staff.